

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01

SAJ-01 ACDA-10 OMB-01 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5577

USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 2921

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, UN, IS, PLO, LE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - VIEWS OF PRO-SYRIAN AND OTHER BEIRUT
PAPERS ON ISRAEL AND UN

1. SUMMARY. PRO-SYRIAN "ASH-SHARQ" AND INDEPENDENT
ENGLISH-LANGUAGE "DAILY STAR" HAVE, ALONG WITH UNOFFICIAL
BEIRUT MOUTHPIECES OF VARIOUS PALESTINIAN GROUPS (SEPTTEL),
BEGUN IN RECENT DAYS TO REGISTER STRONG REACTION TO
WESTERN DIPLOMATIC MOVES TO COUNTER PROPOSALS TO EXPEL OR
SUSPEND ISRAEL FROM UN. PRO-SYRIAN "ASH-SHARQ" IN TWO
EDITORIALS, DEVELOPS THEME THAT U.S. HAS MADE MAJOR MISTAKES
IN SEEKING TO BLOCK EXPULSION OR SUSPENSION OF ISRAEL FOR
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"ITS EXPANSIONIST AMBITIONS IN CONTRAVENTION OF UN CHARTER",

BUT STOPS SHORT OF REPUDIATING U.S. MEDIATION, INDEPENDENT ENGLISH-LANGUAGE "DAILY STAR" ACCUSES U.S. OF FAILING TO SEE THAT ISRAEL HAS BECOME "BLACK SHEEP" OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. BEIRUT'S PRO-EGYPTIAN AND PRO-SAUDI PUBLICATIONS, FOR THEIR PART, HAVE BEEN AND CONTINUE TO BE SILENT ON ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. PRO-SYRIAN "ASH-SHARQ" WRITES (JULY 26): "NO ONE CAN DOUBT THAT U.S. HAS MADE MAJOR MISTAKE IN ANNOUNCING ITS READINESS TO WITHDRAW FROM U.N. IF ISRAEL IS EXPELLED.... WHAT IS THIS MISTAKE...? IN FACT, U.S. HAS NOT COMMITTED ONE, BUT SEVERAL: (A) IT HAS ANTAGONIZED ALL ISLAMIC COUNTRIES... (B) IT HAS REVEALED IT IS UNFIT FOR ROLE OF MEDIATION, WHICH ASSUMES NEUTRALITY AND COMMITMENT TO RIGHT. (C) IT HAS ESCALATED EUROPEAN AND ASIAN INDUSTRIAL NATIONS' FEARS OF WAR IN MIDEAST... (D) IT HAS GIVEN ISRAEL SUPPORT FOR ITS REBELLION AGAINST INTERNATIONAL WILL, THUS NEGATING EFFECT OF ALL PROGAGANDA OF AMERICAN MOUTHPIECES RE SO-CALLED 'AMERICAN PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO OFFER MORE CONCESSIONS TO SOLVE CRISIS'. (E) IT HAS CHALLENGED U.N. ITS RULES, CHARTERS, AND ORGANS AND PUT ITS WILL ABOVE ALL THIS. (F) IT HAS REMINDED WORLD OF HITLER'S AND MUSSOLINI'S THREATS AGAINST AND EVENTUAL WITHDRAWAL FROM LEAGUE OF NATIONS.... NONE OF THIS MEANS WE ARABS WILL CUT THREAD OF MEDIATION AND COMMIT OURSELVES TO LINE OF PURE REJECTION.... WE WILL CONTINUE TO ACCEPT MEDIATION ON BASIS OF FRANK AND COURAGEOUS CONFRONTATION WITH STATE THAT HAS GIVEN PROOF OF ITS BIAS...WE WILL PROCLAIM ALL THIS TO WORLD IN GENEVA OR AT U.N. WHEN CONDITIONS ARE RIPE, WE WILL ADOPT DECISIVE POSITION, AND IT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO ENTIRE WORLD, BUT DISCOMFITING TO U.S. AND FATAL TO ISRAEL."

3. PRO-SYRIAN "ASH-SHARQ" WRITES (JULY 30): "INTRUDER ZIONIST ENTITY... HAS BECOME DANGER TO AMERICA, WEST, AND U.N.... THIS ENTITY, WHICH THREATENS SECURITY OF WHOLE WORLD IN GENERAL AND MIDEAST IN PARTICULAR BY ITS EXPANSIONIST AMBITIONS... MUST BE REMOVED FROM ARAB WORLD AND U.N.... ONLY U.S. AND SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES... ARE STILL WITH ISRAEL... IN THREATENING TO TAKE SANCTIONS AGAINST NATIONS THAT SUPPORT RESOLUTION BY CUTTING ITS ASSISTANCE UNCLASSIFIED

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TO UN, U.S. IS RESORTING TO BLACKMAIL TO FORCE WORLD-- THROUGH UN -- TO PERPETUATE OPPRESSION, USURPATION, OCCUPATION, AND EXPULSION OF RIGHTFUL INHABITANTS FROM THEIR LANDS IN CONTRAVENTION OF UN CHARTER."

4. INDEPENDENT ENGLISH-LANGUAGE "DAILY STAR" WRITES (JULY 30): "THERE HAS BEEN GREAT DEAL OF CONTROVERSY OVER ISRAEL'S THREATENED SEAT AT UNGA -- MOST OF IT WIDE OF

MARK... WHAT US -- AND ISRAEL -- FAIL TO SEE ARE
UNDERLYING CAUSES OF ISRAEL'S PRESENT DIFFICULTIES. WORLD
HAS COME TO REGARD ISRAEL AS BLACK SHEEP OF INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY. ISRAEL CANNOT SIMPLY DISMISS MAJORITY OF WORLD
AS ANTI-SEMITIC. NOR CAN U.S. ACCUSE UN OF UNDEMOCRATIC
PRACTICES.... ISRAELIS ARE NOT LIKELY TO MEND THEIR WAYS AS
LONG AS U.S. SUPPORTS THEM TO EXTENT OF FIGHTING THEIR
DIPLOMATICCAMPAIGNS FOR THEM."

5. BEIRUT'S PRO-EGYPTIAN AND PRO-SAUDI PUBLICATIONS,
NOTABLY LEADING PRO-EGYPTIAN DAILY "AL-ANWAR", HAVE BEEN
AND CONTINUE TO BE SILENT ON ISSUE.
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